ADVANCES IN MATHEMATICS 61, 101 (1986)

Book Reviews

J. A. HARTIGAN, *Bayes Theory*, Springer, 1983, 145 pp.

Despite its austere measure-theoretic style, this monograph has high positive content. The explanation of measure spaces of infinite measure in terms of bets is original and effective, and the case for Bayesian statistics is not only logically impeccable, but fully convincing. Altogether, the style of presentation is one that statisticians should choose as their model.

G. DENARDO, G. GHIRARDI, AND T. WEBER (EDS.), *Group-Theoretical Methods in Physics*, Springer, 1984, 518 pp.

What is happening is that mathematicians have to attend (secretly) certain physics meetings in order to find out what is going on in their own field. Physicists have the P.R., the savoir-faire, and the chutzpah to write up readable, or at least legible, accounts of subjects that are not yet obsolete, something few mathematicians would dare do for fear of being expelled from the A.M.S. May we recommend that you secretly buy this book, secretly read it, and secretly tell your students some of the wonderful things in it.

P. T. JOHNSTONE, *Stone Spaces*, Cambridge, 1982, 370 pp.

Peter Johnstone is emerging as one of the foremost synthesizers of our time. Who else would have the daring to put together under the same cover the Grothendieck theory of the spectrum of a commutative ring, and Garrett Birkhoff's theory of distributive lattices (not to mention lattice-ordered rings, still a forbidden subject in Paris)? This book will probably be one of the most influential treatises in mathematics written in the eighties.

C.-H. SAH, *Hilbert's Third Problem: Scissors Congruence*, Pitman, 1979, 188 pp.

For many years, Hadwiger was the only geometer who tried to convince other—and, at the time, far too abstract—geometers of the depth of the geometry of scissors and pasting. His followers have at last succeeded. Whoever does not find this a paradise ought to be condemned to five years of pure homological algebra (no applications allowed).

G. S. WATSON, *Statistics on Spheres*, Wiley, 1983, 238 pp.

At rare times, someone has the right idea for a monograph on a subject which no one had previously even stated, but which, once stated, appears to be most natural subject in the world. Watson's is a case in point; what is more, the author is an engaging writer and will be read not only by believers in the random world, but by the newly growing cohorts of people who firmly believe that space should have n dimensions, with n a small positive integer.

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